

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as presented below, which is a complete listing of claims pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(c):

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to receive a sole of the ~~boot~~; boot;

a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk having ~~at least two~~ four elongated holes, parallel to one another, aligned in pairs, across from one another in pairs, the elongated holes extending through a thickness of the ~~disk~~, and disk;

at least two screws each extending through respective ones of the elongated ~~holes~~, holes;

~~the assembly further comprising~~ a single plate parallel to the disk, the plate being slidable along lengths of the elongated holes, ~~at least two~~ four holes extending through a thickness of the plate, said four holes of the plate being positioned at the four corners of a square;

each of said at least two screws extending through a respective hole of the ~~plate~~, and plate;

means for retaining the screws on the plate.

Claim 2. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is located on a lower portion of the disk.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 3, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 5. (*Canceled*)

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

- a base provided to support a sole of the boot, the base being adapted to be affixed to the sports apparatus;

- a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk;

- at least two screws, said screws provided to extend through respective ones of the elongated holes of the disk;

- a plate located beneath the disk and provided to be positioned parallel to the disk and slidable along a surface of the disk, at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

- means for retaining the screws on the plate and for connecting the plate to the disk when the base is not affixed to the sports apparatus, all of the at least two screws provided to extend through respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the assembly on the snowboard, the disk having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate, the plate being located beneath the disk;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the disk, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of the screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 8. (*Canceled*)

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 9, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the at least two elongated holes of the disk comprise said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the assembly on the snowboard, the disk having at least four elongated holes extending elongated in the same direction, said holes extending through a thickness of the disk, the four elongated holes being arranged in two spaced-apart pairs of elongated holes; and wherein the at least two holes of the plate comprises

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least four holes extending through a thickness of the plate, the four holes being positioned at four corners of a square;

at least two screws, each of the screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the elongated holes of the disk, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of the screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 12. (*Canceled*)

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot, the base comprising:

a circular opening through a thickness of the base; ~~and~~

a circular disk nested in the circular opening for rotation within the circular opening;

at least two elongated holes extending through the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate, the plate being positioned beneath the disk;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 14. (*Canceled*)

Claim 15. (*Canceled*)

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is positioned above the disk.

Claim 17. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 18. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 17, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 19. *(Currently Amended)* An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the at least two elongated holes of the disk comprise said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot, the base comprising:

a circular opening through a thickness of the base; and

a circular disk nested in the circular opening for rotation within the circular opening;

four elongated holes extending elongated in the same direction, said holes extending through the disk, the four elongated holes being arranged in two spaced-apart pairs of elongated holes, and wherein the at least two holes of the plate comprises holes;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes of the disk, the plate having four holes positioned at four corners of a square;

at least two screws, each of the screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 20. *(Canceled)*

Claim 21. *(Currently Amended)* An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising: A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein

a base provided to receive a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk has having at least three elongated holes, the elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk;

at least two screws each extending through respective ones of the elongated holes;

a single plate parallel to the disk, the plate being slidable along lengths of the elongated holes, at least three holes extending through a thickness of the plate, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle;

each of said at least two screws extending through a respective hole of the plate;

means for retaining the screws on the plate.

Claim 22. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 21, wherein the disk has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 23. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 24. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 25. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 26. *(Currently Amended)* An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the assembly on the snowboard, the disk has having at least three elongated holes and extending through a thickness of the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate has having at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle and extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the elongated holes of the disk, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of the screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 27. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 26, wherein the disk has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 28. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 29. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 30. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 31. *(Currently Amended)* An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the base has said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot, the base comprising:

a circular opening through a thickness of the base;

a circular disk nested in the circular opening for rotation within the circular opening;

at least three elongated holes extending through the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, and the plate has having at least three holes extending through a thickness of the plate the three holes of the plate, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 32. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 31, wherein the base has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 33. *(Currently Amended)* An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus. A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein said assembly comprising:

a base provided to receive a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the base on the sports apparatus, the disk has comprising:

at least two elongated holes, parallel to one another, the elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk;

an upper surface adapted to face upwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, and apparatus;

a lower surface adapted to face downwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, wherein apparatus;

a cavity ~~[[is]]~~ recessed in the lower surface of the disk, and wherein disk;

at least two screws each extending through respective ones of the elongated holes;

a single plate parallel to the disk, the plate being slidable along lengths of the elongated holes, at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate the plate ~~[[is]]~~ being housed in the cavity of the disk and ~~[[is]]~~ being slidably movable within the cavity at least in a direction along the lengths of the elongated holes of the disk;

each of said at least two screws extending through a respective hole of the plate;

means for retaining the screws on the plate.

Claim 34. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot, the base comprising:

a circular opening through a thickness of the base;

a circular disk nested in the circular opening for rotation within the circular opening, the disk has comprising:

at least two elongated holes extending through the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

an upper surface adapted to face upwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, and apparatus;

a lower surface adapted to face downwardly relative to the sports apparatus, when the assembly is retained on the sports apparatus, wherein apparatus;

a cavity [[is]] recessed in the lower surface of the disk, and wherein disk;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate the plate [[is]] being housed in the cavity of the disk and [[is]] being slidably movable within the cavity at least in a direction along the lengths of the elongated holes of the disk;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through respective ones of the two elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate.

Claim 35. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 36. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 37. *(Previously Presented)* A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein said single plate has a predetermined size and shape, wherein said single plate is the only plate of the retaining assembly having said predetermined size and shape, the retaining assembly thereby not including a second plate having said predetermined size and shape.

Claim 38. *(Currently Amended)* An assembly adapted to retain a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the sports apparatus and adapted to support a sole of the boot, said base comprising:

a through opening; and

a disk supportable above said through opening, at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said disk, each of said two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a plate having a predeterminate size and shape, said plate being the one and only plate of said assembly having said predeterminate size and shape, the plate being located beneath the disk;

said plate being slidably positionable relative to said base in the direction of said elongated holes, said plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of said plate;

a plurality of screws, each of said screws having a single predeterminate size and shape to extend through a respective one of said elongated holes of said base, through a respective one of said holes of said plate, and into an upper surface of the sports apparatus to secure said base onto the sports apparatus;

said plurality of screws comprising means for retaining said plate connected to said base when said plurality of screws are not screwed into the sports apparatus.

Claim 39. (*Canceled*)

Claim 40. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly adapted to retain a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the sports apparatus and adapted to support a sole of the boot, said base comprising:

a through opening; and

a disk supportable above said through opening, at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of said disk, each of said two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a plate having a predeterminate size and shape, said plate being the one and only plate of the assembly having said predeterminate size and shape, the plate being located beneath the disk;

said plate being slidably positionable relative to said base in the direction of said elongated holes, said plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of said plate;

a plurality of screws, each of said screws having a single predeterminate size and shape to extend through a respective one of said elongated holes of said base, through a respective one of said holes of said plate, and into an upper surface of the sports apparatus to secure said base onto the sports apparatus;

said base being positionable between a disassembled position, whereby the retaining assembly is not secured onto the sports apparatus, and an assembled position, whereby the retaining assembly is secured onto the sports apparatus;

in said assembled position of the retaining assembly, every screw extending into the upper surface of the sports apparatus extends through said plate of the assembly.

Claim 41. (*Previously Presented*) A retaining assembly according to claim 40, wherein said plurality of screws comprise means for retaining said plate connected to said base when said plurality of screws are not screwed into the sports apparatus.

Claim 42. (*Canceled*)

Claim 43. (*New*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is located beneath the disk.

Claim 44. (*New*) A retaining assembly according to claim 43, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.